

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for conducting a cooking process in a cooking chamber of a cooking appliance using a cooking process probe which is to be inserted at least partly into an item being cooked in the cooking chamber for detecting at least one variable of the item being cooked, comprising the steps of:

at least at one predetermined point in time, automatically monitoring to detect non-insertion of the cooking process probe in which at least one of the following steps is performed:

at least one of a conductivity value, a resistance value, an induction value, a capacitance, a pressure characteristic, and a characteristic of at least one of an electric, magnetic, or electromagnetic field is detected over a period of time or by forming time derivatives for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is in a standby position in a retaining device provided by the cooking appliance or in a measuring position in a positioning device provided by an accessory part for receiving the item being cooked,

at least one of a conductivity value, a resistance value, an induction value, a capacitance value, a potential difference value, a weight value, a moisture value, a radiation characteristic, a pressure characteristic, and a characteristic of at least one of an electric, magnetic, or electromagnetic field is detected over a period of time or by forming time derivatives for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is removed from the retaining device or the positioning device,

at least one of radiation characteristics and a characteristic of at least one of an electric, magnetic, or electromagnetic field is detected over a period of time or by forming time derivatives for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is at least one of moved or positioned inside the cooking appliance, and

at least one of a conductivity value, a resistance value, an induction value, a capacitance value, a potential difference value, a moisture value, a radiation characteristic, a pressure characteristic and a characteristic of at least one of an electric, magnetic, or electromagnetic field is detected over a period of time or by

forming time derivatives for monitoring whether the cooking process probe is being grasped; and

~~if non-insertion is detected upon detecting non-insertion of the cooking process probe into an item to be cooked, at least one of emitting a first warning signal is emitted, making a changeover is made to an emergency program, and aborting a cooking program is aborted.~~

13. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 12 wherein to detect non-insertion of the cooking process probe, a monitoring is carried out to determine whether the cooking process probe is connected to the cooking appliance.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 12 wherein the predetermined point in time is determined by at least one of a beginning of the cooking process, an end of the cooking process, or an actuation of a cooking chamber door.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 12 wherein to detect non-insertion of the cooking process probe, at least one of the following steps is performed:

 determining at least one variable of the item being cooked, the variable being detected by means of the cooking process probe,

 determining a variation over time of the variable of the item being cooked, and

 determining at least one derivative of the variation over time of the variable of the item being cooked, and wherein

 at least one of the determined variable of the item being cooked, the determined variation over time, and the determined derivative is compared with at least one set point value.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 12 wherein dependent on the cooking process, at least one of a second warning signal is emitted if the cooking process probe is not placed in the retaining device in order to call on an operator to place the cooking process probe in the retaining device, and a third warning signal is emitted if the cooking process probe is not placed in the positioning device in order to call on an operator to place the cooking process probe in the positioning device.

18. – 22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A method for conducting a cooking process in a cooking chamber of a cooking appliance using a cooking process probe which is to be inserted at least partly into an item being cooked in the cooking chamber for detecting at least one variable of the item being cooked, comprising the steps of:

at least at one predetermined point in time, automatically monitoring to detect non-insertion of the cooking process probe into the item being cooked;

if non-insertion is detected, at least one of a first warning signal is emitted, a changeover is made to an emergency program, and a cooking program is aborted; and

determining whether the cooking process probe is in a standby position in a retaining device, or whether the cooking process probe is in a measuring position in a positioning device which positions the cooking process probe for insertion into the item being cooked.

24. – 25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 23 wherein it is detected whether or not the cooking process probe is being grasped.

27. – 29. (Canceled)